



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

**Wild Turkeys in Illinois.**—On July 12, 1905, Mr. F. B. Smiley, 407 Security Bld'g, St. Louis, Mo., informed me that he and party killed, in October, 1903, five Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in the "Sante Fe Bottoms" ("Okaw Bottoms"), eight miles south of Bartelso, Clinton Co., Illinois. He also stated that, as far as he knew, these were the last Wild Turkeys ever seen in Illinois. It will be interesting to hear from others familiar with the subject, and to know whether other Wild Turkeys have since been observed in that State.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colo.*

***Asio wilsonianus* in Shelburne, New Hampshire.**—A female American Long-eared Owl was shot on the banks of the Androscoggin River in Shelburne, New Hampshire, early in the morning of October 12, 1908, by Mr. C. D. Bullerwell of Cambridge, Massachusetts. I was visiting in Shelburne at the time and Mr. Bullerwell kindly presented the specimen to me. I have deposited it in the Museum of Mr. William Brewster.

The town of Shelburne is in the White Mountain region about twelve miles northeast of Mount Washington, in the northern part of the State. Mr. G. M. Allen, in his 'List of the Birds of New Hampshire,' published in the 'Proceedings of the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences,' volume IV, 1903, page 104, says, in regard to *Asio wilsonianus*: "All the records which I have for this species are from localities in the southern and central part of the State. I have never seen it in the White Mountains."—WALTER DEANE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**A Note on the English Sparrow**<sup>1</sup> (*Passer domesticus*).—There is considerable doubt as to the source of the early importations into this country of European House Sparrows, commonly known here as English Sparrows. It is probable, like many of our human emigrants, that the breed is of mixed origin, some having been brought from England, some from Germany. There are certain local differences between the birds from these two sources which need not be discussed here. Our only object is to compare specimens taken in New England between 1873 and 1886, with specimens taken here at the present day, and with specimens taken in England at the present day.

The number of specimens is too few for deductions, but we wish to put certain measurements on record, as it is possible they may some time prove of value. A great dearth of early specimens of this un-loved bird prevails. Those examined are from the collections of Mr. Wm. Brewster and Dr. Townsend, and were all from the Boston and Cambridge region. The present day specimens are all from New England, for the most part from Arlington, Mass., while the present day English specimens were sent to Mr. Hardy in the flesh from the vicinity of Liverpool, England.

The early New England specimens are striking birds, clean, with clear whites, blacks and chestnuts. The delicate wavy lines on the breasts

---

<sup>1</sup> Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Nov. 9, 1908.

of the females are plainly to be seen. The present day birds both from New England and old England are very dark and sooty, and in consequence lack these characteristics. The differences can be ascribed to feather soiling in their present sooty environments.

The following table gives the measurements in millimeters.

Locality, etc.	Wing.	Tail.	Bill.	Tarsus.
New England 1873-1886				
Average 7 ♂	78.00	56.00	12.64	14.42
" 3 ♀	73.00	53.00	11.66	15.00
New England 1907.				
Average 18 ♂	77.30	56.60	13.18	14.55
" 7 ♀	75.50	55.50	12.95	14.28
England 1907				
Average 8 ♂	75.50	54.70	12.56	15.25
" 17 ♀	72.00	51.80	12.32	13.94

It is seen that the early New England specimens average about the same in size as the present New England specimens, except as regards the bill which averages about 1 mm. larger in the present day bird. The present day English bird averages in wing and tail from 2 to 3 mm. smaller than the present day New England bird. The tarsus is about the same, while the bill corresponds more closely with the bill of the early American bird in being about 1 mm. smaller. In other words it would seem that in the early years of struggle only the more vigorous, larger birds survived and that under favorable conditions the larger size was continued with an added increase in the size of the bill. A larger series may invalidate these conclusions, but they are given for what they are worth.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Boston*, and JOHN H. HARDY, JR., *Arlington, Mass.*

**Mexican Goldfinch in Colorado.**—The undersigned has to record the occurrence of a male Mexican Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria mexicanus*) in Denver on June 30, 1908; the bird was watched for a considerable time feeding in a vacant lot, which is within three blocks of the State Capitol Building, and was as typical and unmistakable as any the writer has ever seen in old Mexico.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*